

# Agricultural

## REVIEW

Volume: 97 - No. 4

April 2022

Raleigh, N.C.

## Got to Be NC Festival to be May 20-22

Mark your calendar for May 20-22 for the return of the Got to Be NC Festival. This free family-friendly event features a large collection of tractors on display plus a daily tractor parade, carnival rides and games, agricultural exhibits, antique farm equipment, fair food and music.

The Food Lion Local Goodness Marketplace will showcase some of North Carolina's tastiest products. Visitors can sample and shop the marketplace for their favorites. Marketplace admission is \$3.

On Saturday, May 21, the Carolina Pig Jig will feature 20 chapters of Masons in a BBQ competition to benefit the Masonic Homes for Children at Oxford. Food will be served to the public after judging Saturday morning beginning at 11 a.m. Tickets for all-you-can-eat BBQ is \$15 for adults 11 and older, \$5 for kids 7 to 10, and free for kids 6 and under.

Festival gate hours are Friday noon to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. k

## Poultry owners urged to remain extra vigilant

### ■ *High path avian influenza still being seen in wild birds; poses risk to domestic birds*

State Veterinarian Dr. Mike Martin has extended his strong recommendation to poultry owners to continue strict biosecurity measures due to the threat of High Path Avian Influenza. These recommendations include keeping birds enclosed/indoors if possible.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, along with the United States Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission has been tracking the highly pathogenic Eurasian H5 avian influenza first identified in January in wild waterfowl in our state.

"Since Jan. 16, more than 100 wild birds have tested positive for HPAI in North Carolina," Martin said. "The wild waterfowl that tested positive in our state are still wintering in the Carolinas. HPAI has also been confirmed in 17 commercial poultry farms across seven states and 10 backyard/independent flocks in seven states. These positive cases in domestic poultry flocks in other states continue to rise, which is concerning. North Carolina has not had a case of HPAI in domestic poultry."

This type of HPAI virus is considered a low risk to people according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, but is dangerous to other birds, including



commercial and backyard flocks of poultry. The warning signs of HPAI (See High Path AI, pg. 2)

## WNC Agricultural Crop Loss Program expanded to include April 2021 freeze and frost damages, losses

### ■ *Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania counties included in expansion*

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Agricultural Crop Loss Program has been expanded to include farmers in six western counties that suffered freeze or frost damage to their agricultural commodities from April 2 to April 21, 2021.

To be eligible for assistance under the program expansion, a person must have experienced a verifiable loss of agricultural commodities as a result of this freeze disaster and the person's farm must be located in Buncombe,

Haywood, Henderson, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania counties.

"A late season hard freeze can be particularly damaging for young plants. I was thankful when the USDA declared a freeze disaster that recognized damages and losses in several counties," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Farmers who have applied for assistance through this program for Tropical Storm Fred must demonstrate a separate and distinct loss for the freeze disaster.

We encourage farmers to submit their application for assistance to ensure they meet the April 15 deadline."

Farmers who suffered a loss due to Tropical Storm Fred also have until the April 15 deadline to apply. Farmers in 11 western NC counties are eligible to apply for losses incurred due to Tropical Storm Fred. Commodities in this program include: apples, corn, forages, grapes, nursery crops, potatoes, soybeans, sweet corn, tobacco, tomatoes, wheat, specialty crops and other fruits

and vegetables. Stored grain is not included in the program. Livestock commodities include aquaculture, cattle, sheep, swine, goats, farmed cervids and bison.

The application and required forms can be downloaded at [www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov). For questions about the program in general, call 866-747-9823. Applicants may also reach out to their local cooperative extension or Farm Service Agency offices for application support.

## From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

Spring is officially here, and I am more than glad to welcome it's return. It is always a busy time on the farm.

Crops are going in the ground, plus you will begin to find fresh local strawberries and early season crops at farmers markets and grocery stores and agritourism activities kicking off for the year.

As this paper is coming together, we are celebrating National Ag Week—

### *by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler*

something I'd be happy to celebrate every week. This marks the 49th year of this effort to draw attention to the many contributions of agriculture and agribusiness.

If there is one thing I hope the pandemic has taught us, it's the importance of local farms and a local food supply.

Shopping with local farms and food businesses is the best way to ensure they will be here when we need them. Every person who reads this newspaper is a consumer and I encourage you to support North Carolina farmers and agribusinesses by shopping with them. Look for products with the Got to Be NC logo on them and make it a point to try something local.

It is important that we all do our part to support local producers because less than 2 percent of the world population feeds us. We need farmers to be successful. We need to show young people that there is a

future in agriculture, and we need to ensure as a state and as a country that we can feed ourselves.

If everyone reading this article purchased one local food product, it would make a big difference at the farm level.

We are blessed in our state that just about any crop can be produced here — citrus being an exception. It is why agriculture and agribusiness is our leading industry at \$95.9 billion and the reason we are the fourth most agriculturally diverse state.

We also lead the nation in the production of many agricultural commodities. Here's a brief run down:

No. 1 in flue-cured tobacco, producing 78.7 percent of the total U.S. crop

No. 1 in sweet potatoes, growing 61 percent of the total U.S. crop

No. 1 in poultry and egg cash receipts at over \$4.7 billion

No. 2 in pig crop at 19.6 million head

No. 2 in turkeys at 31 million head

No. 3 in hogs and pigs at 9.5 million

No. 4 in cucumbers at \$25.4 million in production

No. 4 in broilers at 916 million head

No. 5 in peanuts at 443 million pounds or \$92.9 million

No. 5 in upland cotton in over 1 million bales produced

No. 5 in bell peppers at 552,000 cwt.

I can tell you that farmers across our state are working hard every day to be sure we have food products to enjoy. I hope you will read the story on Page 8 about James Shackelford, a Snow Hill farmer who continues to raise food at 79 years old. He is an example of the many small farms we have in the state. Did you know that nearly 68 percent of farms in North Carolina are 100 acres or less?

(See Troxler, pg. 2)

## Agricultural Review

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### High Path AI

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

include:

- Reduced energy, decreased appetite, and/or decreased activity
- Lower egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb and wattles
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb and legs
- Difficulty breathing, runny nares (nose), and/or sneezing
- Twisting of the head and neck, stumbling, falling down, tremors and/or circling
- Greenish diarrhea

If your birds are sick or dying, report it right away to your local veterinarian, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division, 919-707-3250, or the N.C. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System 919-733-3986.

If you have questions about migratory birds, hunting, or wild waterfowl found dead on your property, visit the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission’s website at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

### Troxler

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

And finally, agritourism activities and on-farm events continue to increase in popularity and availability. You will find spring events planned at farms across the state listed on pages 3, 4 and 5. Visiting an agritourism farm is

another way to support your local farmers.

I said spring is a busy time on the farm and it is. As we celebrate agriculture and small farmers, I hope we all remember the important connection between the farm and the table and are grateful for all that farmers do to feed us.

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# Upcoming Farmers Markets Events

## Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, Colfax

-- The Arc Festival will be held May 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by The Arc of High Point, the event features live music, a kids zone, a beer garden with local microbrews and contests. For more info, Contact [stephaniearchp@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniearchp@gmail.com) or call 336-883-0650.

-- The Greensboro Police Department and the Triad Chevy Club will host the COPS & RODDERS Cruise In and Car Show May 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day includes food trucks, music and raffle prizes with proceeds from a \$10 donation benefitting the Special Olympics.

-- The Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club hosts a Gem & Mineral Show June 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Gary Parker at 336-402-5252 or [redrutile@bellsouth.net](mailto:redrutile@bellsouth.net) for more information.

## WNC Ag Center, Asheville

-- Easter demos will take place April 11 from noon to 1 p.m. Ideas shared using ingredients from the Market – local eggs, natural dyes, Easter, décor, Easter treats.

-- A Strawberry Tasting featuring fresh strawberries will be held April 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

-- National Eat Your Vegetables Day will be held June 17 at noon. Come sample some of our farmers’ freshest local vegetables and find ideas for using them in summer menus.

-- A Blueberry Tasting will be held June 20 at noon. Celebrate the local blueberry season in North Carolina with fresh blueberries.

-- A Blackberry Tasting will be held July 18 at noon. Taste free samples of our local berries.

-- Watermelon Day will be held July 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Family fun with watermelon games and competitions, the Watermelon Queen, and lots of tastes of fresh, cold watermelon.

-- A Peach Tasting will be held July 25 at noon. Fresh peach sampling and home-churned Ol’ Ken Cole ice cream from The Deli Bakery and Ice Cream Shop.

-- Fresh Tomato Day will be Aug. 8 at noon. Celebrating the summer tomato, visitors can sample several varieties of fresh tomatoes and rank them according to preference and purchase their favorites.

# N.C. Tomato Growers Association offers \$1,000 scholarship

The N.C. Tomato Growers Association is offering a \$1,000 merit/need-based scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year. Any North Carolina resident who pursues a horticulture or agribusiness undergraduate or graduate degree at a four-year North Carolina college or university is eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting an application is May 31.

The award will be based on a student’s demonstrated scholastic achievement, initiative, leadership, financial need and extracurricular activities. The scholarship is contingent on the recipient maintaining at least a 2.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 on all course work during the scholarship period.

The recipient must be enrolled for the entire school

year to receive the full scholarship. Scholarship funds will be distributed through the financial aid office of the attending student’s college or university. The scholarship will be paid in two installments, \$500 per semester.

Applications are available with additional information at [www.nctomatoes.com](http://www.nctomatoes.com).

For additional information or questions, contact Melinda James, president of the N.C. Tomato Growers Association, at 828-526-3989, or by e-mail at [osagem@msn.com](mailto:osagem@msn.com).

Completed applications should be mailed to: N.C. Tomato Growers Association, c/o Melinda James, 1604 Hale Ridge Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775.

## Bucolic briefs

**The N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer is gearing up for a huge day of tractors, trains and fun April 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exhibits include modern tractors, antique farm equipment, and farm life demonstrations. Kid’s activities, music and hayrides will also be featured. A parade of tractors ends the day at 3 p.m. Go to [nctransportationmuseum.org](http://nctransportationmuseum.org), or call 704-636-2889 to enter your tractor or farm equipment or to purchase tickets.**

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**The following free Produce Safety Field Days will be held at research stations in April from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: April 6 at the Horticultural Crops Research Station in Clinton. To register, go to <https://forms.gle/Hbs1p2oih24B6HnB9>. April 13 at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center. To register, go to <https://forms.gle/FUST27POxvA1cyGV6>.**

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**The Grantham and Brogden N.C. Granges are celebrating their 85th Anniversary by hosting a free event May 7 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Dudley. As part of the celebration, the organizations are teaming up with the Eastern NC Vintage Farm Equipment Club for its 21st annual show. Activities include food and drink vendors; antique tractor/equipment show; wagon rides; toy tractor rides; exhibits on tobacco heritage, gardening, beekeeping, home canning, handmade quilting, antique corn shelling, the N.C. Caisson Unit, and the Ronald McDonald House; displays by the national and local Granges; a pie baking competition and cookie baking competitions for under age 12; gospel music and dance entertainment; and a corn hole competition. For more information or questions, contact Sally Waddell at 252-514-5091.**

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**The Carolina and Dove Association will host its inaugural Spring Pigeon Lawn Show May 28 at Dallas Park, 1303 Dallas/Cherryville Hwy., Dallas. For more information contact Bogdan Pauasyuk, 425-535-7996.**

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**As a way to help farmers and agricultural workers stay safe at work, the N.C. Department of Labor offers safety videos on a variety of topics through its YouTube channel. Video topics include: preventing green tobacco sickness, hazard communication, tobacco harvester safety, heat stress, migrant housing requirements, forklift safety, and information about the NCDOL’s Gold Star Growers program. The videos are in English and Spanish to increase understanding of safety hazards and preventing accidents. To learn more about the NCDOL and the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, go to [www.nclabor.com](http://www.nclabor.com) or call 1-800-NC-LABOR (800-625-2267). NCDOL is also on Facebook and Twitter (@NCDOL).**

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**Beekeepers with bees for rent and growers interested in bee pollination services can post their information on the BeeLinked website at [www.ncagr.com/beelinked](http://www.ncagr.com/beelinked). The site is hosted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the N.C. State University Apiculture Program. Anyone interested in listing their information can do so by filling out an online Submit Your Ad form on the BeeLinked page or by contacting NCDA&CS at 919-233-8214 or by email at [NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov](mailto:NCHoneybee@ncagr.gov) or call NCSU at 919-515-1660. The NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division regulates the movement of agricultural or related items capable of spreading harmful insects, diseases, and other pests. Beekeepers participating in this program will be required to comply with all honey and bee industry regulations.**

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# Safriet named NCDA&CS Employee of the Year

At a meeting earlier this year, Commissioner Steve Troxler recognized the 2021 NCDA&CS Employee of the Year SueAnn Locklear Safriet. She is a forest management secretary for the N.C. Forest Service in District 10 – a ten-county district based in Lexington. Safriet was previously selected as the June 2021 Employee of the Month, and early this year a committee selected her from the eleven other 2021 monthly honorees to name her the Employee of the Year.

“To say that I’m honored is an understatement, and to say I am humbled is a given,” Safriet said. “I’m beaming from the inside out, and I will be for years.”

District Forester Mark Bost nominated Safriet for the employee recognition. To put it plainly, he wanted to honor her for the incredibly large workload she handles and the pleasant and uplifting demeanor she maintains despite the stress of a busy district.

“When I get to work, she’s already here, and she’s buried in work and getting to it. She really takes it to the extreme with her extra effort. I just can’t be appreciative enough for all she does,” Bost said. “Even though I’m the one who wrote the nomination, there was a consensus across the ten counties in our district that she deserved this recognition. It’s common knowledge that she’s a great employee.”

Safriet grew up in Robeson County, and her family moved to Guilford County when she was a teenager. She previously worked in education and has worked in the District 10 office for nearly five years. Her job involves the administrative work associated with all the district’s forest management plans that are prepared for private landowners. That involves printing, copying, mailing plans with enclosures to landowners, invoicing for those plans and receiving payments. Collecting payments involved with those plans also includes late payments. That sometimes means making phone calls that are basically bill collection calls to property owners, but even those conversations are something Safriet handles with a warm demeanor.

In recent years, the revenue Safriet handles through forest management plans has almost doubled. As if that weren’t enough, her job duties expand into billing and collection of receipts for controlled burns, oversight of cost-share programs and coordinating with lots of different people to keep track of payments, receipts and other red tape. Bost said Safriet follows everything down to the penny. She’s well known for her ability to create and track complicated Excel spreadsheets.



Above, SueAnn Safriet receives her Employee of the Year plaque from Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. Top right, Safriet and her family and bottom right, Safriet and her husband Keith at a Dig for a Cure Breast Cancer fundraiser.

“The busyness has allowed me to grow as a person in my career and my convictions,” Safriet said. “I look forward to the challenges and being able to help people. I’m able to not only help my coworkers but the public as well. We do have a lot of people who come in from the public, and I’m able to help them. I do enjoy that part.”

Part of Safriet’s gracious personality and positive outlook comes from her battle with breast cancer. She met the disease with a warrior heart and continues to focus on the light at the end of the tunnel. As a survivor of cancer, she says she’s still taking step to reclaim what cancer stole from her.

“It definitely made me realize that I have to make today better than yesterday because you don’t know what tomorrow holds,” Safriet said. “Although it was a tough battle, I knew God had a plan for me. I said if I’m going to go through this, I want God to use me, and that’s what I’ve been able to do. I’ve been able to mentor other women who have been going through this.”

Safriet’s eagerness to help people has certainly made its way into her job with the Forest Service. Through all the hard

work, Bost said Safriet maintains her upbeat personality, and she’s always willing to lend a hand.

“If she sees someone struggling she steps in to say, ‘let me help with that.’ She never says ‘that’s not my job,’” Bost said.

Safriet looks at her job as a blessing that came from stepping out of her comfort zone. After several years in public education, she walked away and joined the Forest Service. She said she’s now realized that loving to come to work is a real thing and that you can realize that dream if you’re willing to take chances.

“I took a chance, but I’m so glad I did,” Safriet said. “[This award is] affirmation to me that I’m on the right path in serving my community and working with these great coworkers that I have.”

“I consider myself a survivor, not just of breast cancer but of this everyday life that we all go through. I look forward to being able to come to work and enjoy the people every day. When you have another day to live and another day to make a difference in someone else’s life, you just learn to not take life for granted.”



## Plenty of spring agritourism events planned statewide

Residents and visitors looking for farms that offer outdoor experiences and local food will have plenty of options this spring as farms across the state open their gates to welcome guests.

There are a variety of activities to choose from including workshops, Easter egg hunts, strawberry and flower picking, Mother’s Day events, farm stands and farmers markets. Following is a selection of experiences offered at North Carolina farms through Memorial Day.

Visitors can find farm experiences across the state by downloading the Visit NC Farms app with nearly 2,000 farms, fisheries and agriculture destinations nearby and across the state. The free app is available at [www.visitncfarmstoday.com](http://www.visitncfarmstoday.com) and by downloading from the app store on mobile devices. The app allows users to customize itineraries complete with driving directions. Or, online at [www.gottobenc.com](http://www.gottobenc.com), by clicking on the agritourism listing.

Visitors should verify event dates, ticket requirements and operational hours before going.

### Western North Carolina

Sandy Mush Herb Nursery of Leicester is open for visitors Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for garden walks, greenhouse walks, self-guided spring hikes. Online at <https://sandyamushherbs.com/>

Mark your calendars for Cider, Wine & Dine Weekend in Henderson County. April 22-24. This action-packed weekend features artisan hard cider, award-winning wines, food, educational programs, live music, facility tours and more. Learn more at <https://visithendersonvillenc.org/cider-wine-dine-weekend>.

Mountain Brook Vineyards offers award-winning wines paired with memorable hospitality. The vineyard hosts several events in March, including wine tastings, daily tours, wine dinners, sip & shop craft market, movies and barrel tastings. Find online at <https://www.mountainbrookvineyards.com/>.

Apple Hill Farm of Banner Elk will be hosting farm tours by reservation only this spring. They will have baby goat yoga mid-May, as well as an Agritourism Works! Workshop May 14. Check the website for details and bookings at <http://www.applehillfarmnc.com/>.

Valley River Vineyards is now open for the spring. Check out its tasting room and vineyards, or enjoy a peaceful walk through the woods, tent camping and picnic sites. Experience grapevine pruning on April 23. Learn more about this event for adults at <http://www.valleyrivervineyards.com/>.

Mount Gilead Farm of Leicester invites guests to interact with its socialized goat herd and adorable new baby goats that love to be held and

snuggled. Make a reservation on the farm’s website for an educational tour focusing on regenerative agriculture and the integration of animals into farming practices, culminating in bottle-feeding baby goats. The farm store will be open selling goat cheese and other farm-produced items. Learn more at <https://www.mtgileadfarm.com/>.

Wildcat Ridge Farm of Clyde will be having its 2022 Festival of Peonies in Bloom from May 2-31. The festival is free and open to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Potted herbaceous and intersectional peonies as well as blooms available for sale. Seasonal rental of its Yin Yurt is available as well. Full event details are online at <https://www.wildcatridgefarm.com/>.

M.R. Gardens of Asheville is holding open houses showcasing its sustainable nursery, and offers native flowers, groundcovers, herbs and vegetable seedlings for purchase. M. R. Gardens focuses on pollinator plants and other species that benefit the ecosystem and aims to propagate plants in the most sustainable way possible. Check out its website for more information at <http://www.nativeplantsasheville.com/>.

### Central North Carolina

Our Local Farm of Smithfield offers farm tours by reservation only. Be sure to check out its Spring 2022 Farm School for Kids, available every Thursday April 7 through May 12, from

9 a.m. to noon. The farm will also be offering several educational workshops. Go to <http://ourlocalfarmonline.com/> for details.

Robertson Family Farm of King will offer you-pick tulips at the end of March from Friday through Sunday. On May 7, the farm will have a Mother’s Day Festival from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a food truck, vendors, homemade ice cream, desserts and hanging baskets. Also check back for you-pick strawberries. Learn more at <https://www.robertson-family-farm.com/>.

Wolfberry Hawthorn Farm of Durham is offering several workshops, including a grafting workshop March 20, a spring plant sale April 10, a pollinator gardening workshop April 24, and a workshop on growing microgreens May 15. Learn more at <http://www.wolfberryhawthornfarm.com/>.

Sunshine Lavender Farm of Hurdle Mills is hosting its annual Lavender Planting Clinic & Sale March 25 and 26. Discover a variety of lavender plants especially suited for gardens in the humid south with field-side demonstrations led by experienced farmers. Guests may also register to make a custom glass Easter Egg alongside a local master glassblower. The farm’s market, the Lavender Love Shop, will be open with farm fresh handcrafted items to calm and soothe. For tickets and to learn more, go to

<https://sunshinelavenderfarm.co>.

Patterson Farm Market & Tours Inc of Mount Ulla will have its Eggcellent Adventure Egg Hunt April 15, 16 and 18. On-site activities include spring barnyard babies, a playground and a homemade ice cream shop. Pick-your-own strawberries will be offered by appointment only from late April to early June. Tickets and an announcement on strawberry availability can be found at <http://www.visitpattersonfarm.com/>.

Sandy Creek Farm of Lexington will host a Shiitake Mushroom Log Inoculation Workshop, March 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. Advance registration required. See website for more details at <http://www.sandycreekfarm150.com/>.

Franklin County is hosting its first Women In Ag “Local Foods” Tour May 15. This driving tour is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Enjoy stops at local food, crafts and fiber-producing farms. Pet the animals, purchase local foods, including fresh picked strawberries, asparagus, mushrooms, meats, vegetables, honey, jams, and more. Tour is free. Learn more at <http://www.franklin.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

Mitchell’s Nursery & Greenhouse of King will have perennials, vegetable plants, hanging baskets, ferns, annuals and geraniums beginning in March through usually mid-June. They

(See Agritourism, pg. 4)



Agritourism

(Continued from pg. 3)

will have Easter flowers April 8-16. See website for details at <https://mitchellsnursery.com/>.

Cedar Grove Blueberry Farm & Botanist & Barrel of Cedar Grove are excited to host several master class educational workshops including, Shiitake Mushroom Class + Shitake Pizza Lunch, an apple tree grafting class, Yoga with Allie, and Sip and Paint with EV Visual Arts. They host weekly winery tours on Sundays at 12:15 p.m., plus have a number of live music and food events planned. Learn more at <http://www.botanistandbarrel.com/>.

Schiele Museum of Natural History of Gastonia is hosting Spring on the Farm March 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit with animals, explore newly planted gardens, and learn about the importance of pollinators and other beneficial creatures, all while enjoying a fun afternoon at the farm. Baby Animal Day will be April 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet baby animals and enjoy an egg hunt afterwards. Check out other events on its website at <https://schielemuseum.org/>.

Pick-your-own tulips at Dewberry Farm of Kernersville. Reservations are required. Blooms are expected in late March. For updates on blooms go to <http://www.dewberrymanor.com/>.

Karefree Produce INC of Carthage has several events happening this spring. The ice cream stand will

open March 17. There will be an Easter egg hunt April 2 and a Spring Open House May 14. Learn more at <http://www.karefreeproduce.com/>.

The Cheers to Cheese Fest will be held May 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Grove Winery & Vineyards in Gibsonville. Sample and buy local N.C. cheese, see a baby water buffalo and goats, watch a goat milking demonstration, pick up educational dairy materials, and enjoy music and food at this free, fun, outdoor family event. Grove’s Tasting Room will also be open. Find up-to-date info on the NC Cheese Trail Facebook page at <http://www.nccheesetrail.com/events/>.

Canady Farm of Hope Mills will have strawberries in April. Pick your own on Saturdays or visit the farm stand for pre-picked berries throughout the week. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/canadyfarm/>.

Millstone Creek Orchards of Ramseur hosts its Spring Outdoor Market featuring 80 local vendors March 26 and April 16. Guests can visit with the Easter Bunny, enjoy apple cider donuts, hayrides, and more. The farm’s Apple Barn Country Store, picnic area and playground area will be open in the spring as well. Spring Blooms Mini Sessions in the orchard are available in March and April. Go to <https://www.millstonecreekorchards.com/> for more events and details.

Brookhaven Mill Farm of Greensboro will have an Easter egg hunt at the farm for kids under the age of seven

April 16 from 11 a.m. to noon. The farm will also have pony rides every Saturday beginning March 5 and a Sheep Shearing Event in early April. Easter photography and birthday party slots are still available at <http://www.brookhavenmillfarm.com/>.

The Schoolhouse Farm of Pleasant Garden has a number of upcoming events planned including: Homestead Kids Crafternoons every third Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m., Homespun on The Homestead - Homemade health + wellness for every household is held every third Thursday at 7 p.m., a guided foraging forest walk April 10 at 1 p.m., and the Schoolhouse Community Market and Farm Day May 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn more at <https://www.theschoolhouselife.com/calendar>.

Good Karma Ranch of Iron Station will be hosting tours of its alpaca farm and alpaca yoga classes this spring. Get your tickets for these outdoor events in advance on their website at <http://www.goodkamaranch.com/>.

Catawba Farms of Newton hosts the Catawba Valley Festival of the Arts April 22-24. The festival features visual art exhibits, choral and musical performances, and theatrical performances from Catawba Valley Community College and Lenoir-Rhyne University. Event details are online at <https://catawbafarms.com/>.

The Farm at Piper Hill of Silk Hope is open for reservation-only farm visits and glamping sites. It will host a Gold Rush Egg Hunt April 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The farm also offers Kids Overnight Weekend Retreats. Check the website for more information at <http://www.thefarmatpiperhill.com/>.

Greensboro Farmers Curb Market of Greensboro is open every Saturday for fresh, local produce. The market will open on Wednesdays for mid-week markets beginning April 20. Check out a plant sale on April 24, and find other upcoming events at <https://www.gsofarmersmarket.org/>.

Firefly Farm of Hillsborough will have u-pick flower sessions starting in May, just in time for Mother’s Day. Bring Mom along and make it a family outing. Explore all the different types of flowers in bloom, say hello to the farm animals and bring a picnic. Learn more at <http://www.fireflyfarmnc.com/>.

Pace Family Farms of Clayton will host a Barn Quilt Painting Class April 2 at 9 a.m. Purchase tickets in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/barn-quilt-painting-tickets-256893103187>.

The Tobacco Farm Life Museum of Kenly will be hosting Capturing Our Past: Children’s Painting Class April 9 and Working the Land: Antique Tractor Club/Farmer Appreciation

May 14. Learn more at <https://www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org/stepping-into-the-past-saturday-ser>.

Fuzzy Faces Refuge of Clayton hosts Spring Fling at the Farm April 30 from noon to 5 p.m. The event includes a pig pickin’ with all the fixin’s, plus you can meet farm animals, fish, and enjoy arts and crafts. Purchase tickets in advance online.

Double R Cattle Services Inc of Hillsborough will be open for pre-picked and u-pick strawberries during the month of May. Grass-fed beef and pastured pork will also be available at the sales shed during strawberry hours. Learn more at [www.doublercattleservices.com/](http://www.doublercattleservices.com/).

Fine Family Farm of Denton will be open in April and May with baby goat yoga, baby goat cuddling, and barn quilts and other baby goats events. Farm stay rentals also open through Airbnb and shop the farm store with products online at <https://fine-family-farm.square.site/>.

Eastern North Carolina

Twiddle Dee Farm of Clinton is open to the public via a farm membership program. The farm is open to members for an intimate, safe and unique get-away experience including new trails. Guests can also enjoy the blooming flower gardens,

(See More Agritourism, pg. 5)

April AgroTips

Check your crop’s sulfur needs.

Before planting, study your soil report carefully. Throughout North Carolina, soil levels of sulfur can be critically low. This plant nutrient moves easily out of the root zone in sandy coastal plain soils or sandy bottom lands in the western part of the state. In the piedmont, heavy clay soils may restrict root growth and limit access to sulfur reserves. Your NCDA&CS soil report indicates whether application of additional sulfur is necessary. If heavy rains occur early in the season, it is advisable to check sulfur levels again.

Use plant tissue and solution analyses to manage fertility of greenhouse tomatoes.

Tomatoes and other greenhouse crops benefit from intensive management. Have source water samples tested before nutrient solutions are mixed so you can identify and correct any potential problems. After mixing nutrient solutions, submit samples to make sure injectors are working properly and target concentrations are being achieved. Finally, collect plant tissue samples weekly to monitor the crop’s nutrient status and adjust fertilizer rates accordingly.

Fertilize Christmas trees.

Each spring, apply 1/2 ounce of nitrogen uniformly over a 5×5-ft area around each tree. If trees were transplanted the previous fall and the potassium recommendation was 100 lb/acre or more, apply the remainder of the recommended potassium.

For effective bermudagrass sprayfield maintenance, remove winter annuals.

Harvest on time, even if weather is less than ideal. Remove the overseed at the “boof” stage of growth-prior to emergence of seed heads from the sheath. For rye, this is usually early April but varies with species and weather. In some years, follow-up harvests of the winter annual may be needed.

Early April is seldom a good time to dry hay in the field, so plan to remove the winter annual as chopped or baled silage. Timely harvest of the winter annual permits bermuda to emerge from dormancy and develop leaf area before summer annual grasses and weeds germinate. If annual ryegrass was sown, plan on multiple harvests. A herbicide may be warranted for heavy regrowth.

Submit soil samples for lawns and gardens (and some crops) now.

Now is a good time for horticulturists and homeowners to prepare for their spring gardening and landscape projects by taking soil samples. Warm-season grasses and many landscape plants will benefit from lime and fertilizer applied in the coming months. If you haven’t already done so, there is still time to take samples from fields where you intend to plant late spring crops like burley tobacco, cotton, and bermudagrass pastures. In April, the lab can normally process samples within two weeks. When you receive your report, pay particular attention to lime recommendations and make application as soon as possible for maximum effectiveness.

Horse Events

Southeastern Ag Center, Lumberton 910-618-5699

April 4.....Horse & Tack Sale. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

April 29-

May 1 .....Cowboy Mounted Shooting. Contact Pamela Lohrey, 540-570-8785

May 2 .....Horse & Tack Sale. Contact Brad Stephens, 828-390-0878.

May 7 .....BBHA Open Show. Contact Jerry King, 910-237-4525.

Sen. Bob Martin Agricultural Center, Williamston, 252-792-5111

April 9 & 10..NCHJA “C” Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.

April 15-17....ECMHC Spring Fling Miniature Horse Show. Contact Katie Pulley, 757-334-6016

April 23 & 24 April’s Just Horsin’ Round. Contact Beth Tew, [www.justhorsinround.com](http://www.justhorsinround.com).

April 30-

May 1 .....N.C. East Coast Regional 4-H Youth Horse Show. Contact Northeast 4-H Horse Council, 252-793-2163.

May 7 & 8.....NCHJA “C” Horse Show. Contact Emily Bates, 252-378-4474.

May 13-15.....Four Beats for Pleasure Gaited Horse Show. Contact Shannon Gibbs, 919-255-0429.

May 20-22.....All Youth Barrel Bash. Contact Carson Kelly, 919-464-4352.

May 27-29.....SERHA Main Event & Futurity. Contact Daniel Blackburn, 919-669-9486.

June 4 & 5.....NCHJA “C” Horse Show. Contact Bethanna Perry, 252-675-3017.

June 18 & 19. June’s Just Horsin’ Round Open Horse Show. Contact Beth Tew.

WNC Ag Center, Fletcher 828-687-1414

April 22-24....Good Times Barrel Racing: 2nd Annual Spring Classic. Contact Stacey Warner, 864-992-8664.

April 30 &

May 1 .....West District 4-H Horse Show. Contact WNC Ag Center, 828-687-1414

May 6 & 7.....Asheville Spring Warm-Up. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

May 11-14.....Asheville Saddlebred Classic Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

June 16-19.....Piedmont Paso Fino Horse Show. Contact Ashley Aldred, 704-778-6717.

June 20-22.....West District 4H 3-Day Horsemanship Clinic. Contact Shannon Coleman, 828-837-2210, ext. 4.

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh,

April 1-3 .....NCHJA “C” Indoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-669-9877.

April 8-10.....Region 12 & 15 Arabian Show. Contact Myra Daniel, 919-614-7477.

April 14-16....Raleigh Invitational Show. Contac Joyce Wilson, 919-365-5149.

April 22-24....Spring Holiday Classic. Contact Richard Isley, 336-908-3302.

April 23-25....NCHJA “C” Outdoors. Contact Joan Petty, 919-699-9877.

April 29 & 30 Revenge Roughstock Rodeo. Contact Zach Towery, 540-581-4993.

April 30-

May 2 .....NCQHA Tarheel Spring Classic. Contact Randy Ratliff, 336-339-8773.

May 7 & 8.....TWH May Days Show. Contact Kim Moser, 919-219-0256.

May 14 & 15 .Raleigh Spring Dressage. Contact Janine Malone, 919-269-7307.

May 21 & 22 .Wake County 4-H Youth Open Horse Show. Contact Heather Schaffer, 919-250-1093.

May 25-28.....Southern States Regional Morgan Horse Show. Contact Liz Holmes, 919-672-3741.

June 4 & 5.....Capital Dressage Classic. Contact Teresa Uddo, 352-636-2669.

June 9-12.....Tar Heel Summer Classic Show. Contact Randy Ratliff, 336-339-8773.

\*Show dates are subject to change. Call ahead to confirm.



# Pilot project testing psyllids to control knotweed

In the battle against invasive species, NCDA&CS has a tiny new ally.

The invader: Knotweed, a destructive plant which can grow roots systems more than 20 feet wide.

The ally: A two-millimeter bug known as a Knotweed psyllid.

Nancy Oderkirk, research specialist and quarantine officer with the NCDA&CS Beneficial Insects lab, is a one person expert to get the troops in line. A biologist with a background in botany and entomology, Oderkirk is a member of the team that works on biological control of invasive plants and insects in North Carolina.

The Japanese Knotweed, and its relatives the Giant and Bohemian Knotweed, fall under her purview. Native – as one might expect – to Japan, the plant’s large roots systems can undermine concrete and pavement, wreaking havoc on sidewalks and roads. Both forms of the plant are established all over the state and has proven to be a difficult species to tackle due to how easily they can take root in new locations.

“All of these kinds of knotweed are very well-adapted to a variety of environments, and they have a very powerful root system which we call a rhizome. They grow very rapidly and forcefully, and they are extremely difficult to remove,” Oderkirk said. “They also spread easily. A small piece of either rhizome or stem can float down a stream and land on a bank or get carried off on the

tailgate of your truck and land on the ground. Even those small pieces are very good at rooting and starting whole new colonies.”

Those rhizomes have grown so out of control in some areas that they disrupt or undermine highway pavement or even the foundations of buildings. The danger is serious enough – and the plant’s reputation bad enough – that in some parts of the world property cannot be sold if it has knotweed on the lot.

Enter the Knotweed Psyllid. Known officially as *Aphalara itadori*, the tiny bugs hail from Japan just like the knotweed they consume.

And consume knotweed they do – exclusively. The insects only feed and reproduce on that one specific plant, which makes them promising as a biological control tool to address the knotweed problem without causing knock-on effects elsewhere in the ecosystem.

Oderkirk maintains two populations of the psyllids at the Beneficial Insects Lab, one from northern Japan and another from the south. The two populations are actually the same species, but each shows a preference for a different flavor of knotweed.

“The whole idea of biocontrol is to find the natural enemy of an invasive or pest species that is part of it’s natural enemy complex where it came from. So we are just reuniting these psyllids with their host plants,” Oderkirk said. “We’re to the point now where we have tens of thousands of psyllids here in our lab.”

Introducing a new species into the environment of course comes with challenges, and it is important to make sure that doing so doesn’t result in creating a whole new invasive pest. That is why projects like the psyllid introduction go through heavy oversight before being put into full practice.

“There is actually an international code by which anyone who does biocontrol or proposes any studies will abide. In America, it requires oversight and eventual approval by multiple agencies, most notably the USDA Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service,” Oderkirk said. “These agencies have strict protocols to test the would-be imported species against all possible hosts. You have to study the proposed host, then the most closely related ones, and then slightly less-related ones, and you test out further and further until you can show this organism will not accept any additional hosts.”

This process can take a decade or even longer. It’s something of a paradox, Oderkirk said; by the time a species is deemed invasive, a solution is generally needed quickly. That’s why work is already underway to test the effectiveness of the psyllids on knotweed growing here in North Carolina. While the program is still in the pilot phase, there are six sites throughout the state where the insects have been released onto knotweed populations. One of the major obstacles right now is determining what kinds of conditions are ideal for releasing the insects, which is what these sites



will hopefully shed some light on.

“These kinds of projects take decades typically, but I remain very optimistic. There has been even greater success than ours in the state of Oregon, which allows us to kind of hone in on what is causing that success and try to replicate it here,” she said. “Our department is very collaborative

in nature and the stakeholders and cooperators really span the entire spectrum. From an apple grower to Duke Energy, lots of county parks and rec folks, we have such a broad base of cooperators. We’ve got great networks to take advantage of and people to work with us.”

## Classified Ads

Ads are run free for N.C. residents & can be submitted by mail to 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1001; online at [www.AgReview.org](http://www.AgReview.org); or by fax to 919-733-5047. Ads **must** include name, address including zip code, phone number including area code, and **price or price range for every item** being sold.

Deadline for each issue is noon on the first working day of the month prior to publication. Limit is 30 words, editor reserves right to edit or reject ads. Limit 2 ads/person in different categories.



### Bees, Supplies & Services For Sale

#### NOTICE

N.C. law requires a permit to sell honey bees in the state. A permit is not required for: The sale of less than 10 bee hives in a calendar year, a one-time going-out-of-business sale of less than 50 hives, or the renting of bees for pollination purposes or their movement to gather honey. Contact Don Hopkins, state apiarist, NCDA&CS, 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001 for information.

**5-frame nucs** w/marked queen, April-June, transport box avail; NCDA inspected & permitted, \$175 plus \$20 deposit. Wayne Hansen, Charlotte 704-287-4805.

**5-frame nucs** in waxed cardboard nuc box, \$170. Sam Bolick, Concord 704-795-3900.

#### BEES

**5-frame nucs** in pro-nuc box, deep or med, no frame exchange required, \$160. Jeff Telander, Elon 919-618-8094, [telander@gmail.com](mailto:telander@gmail.com).

**5-frame nucs** w/mated queen, p/u April-June, \$170. Preston Brown, Zebulon 919-404-1441 or 453-8440.

**Gallberry honey**, 5-gal bucket, \$300. Barry Harris, Wilmington 910-352-7868.

**3 lb. pkgs**, \$120; local queens, \$30; marked queens, \$33; new 2-frame manual extractor, \$250. Garry Whitley, Albemarle 704-982-0698.

**5 frame nucs** in reusable boxes, NC inspected, healthy, treated for mites, queens marked, avail mid-April-June, \$160. Ken Medlin, Hurdle Mills 336-364-1915.

**35 bee boxes** w/lids, bottoms, tops, frames & top feeders, \$225/all. Randy Asbill, Asheboro 336-629-0037.

**5-frame nucs** in white waxed box, avail mid-April depending on weather, state inspected, \$160. Doug Medlin, Marshville 704-774-5355.

#### BEES

**2022 nucs**, p/u mid-April, \$185 plus deposit. Bryan Fisher, Concord 980-521-8642.

**Used telescoping tops & inner covers**, GC, \$15; Jester nucs, \$8.50; new unassembled hive bodies, \$20. Brett Callaway, Hendersonville 828-696-6629.

**5-frame nucs** in white wax-coated boxes, \$170; 3 lb. bee pkgs, \$120; queens, \$35. Dick Lippard, Statesville 704-682-4018.



### Equipment For Sale

**Rhino SM60 bush hog**, 5 ft., rotary mower, reg hyd, GC, \$4,000. Billy Martin, Statesville 704-450-5011.

**JD sod planter**, 4-row, 471 row units, \$900. Lee Goodnight, China Grove 704-433-8216.

**JD 3300 combine**, 13 ft. grain head, 20 hrs. on rebuilt diesel eng installed 2 yrs ago, EC, \$9,000 obo. Marty DeMers, Sophia 336-509-0241, [comfortandjoyfarms@northstate.net](mailto:comfortandjoyfarms@northstate.net).

## More Agritourism

(Continued from pg. 4)

fire pits, wide open spaces, streaming smooth jazz, plus a tiny retail shop offering unique gifts and edibles. Adults only. Go to <https://www.twiddledeefarm.online/> to become a member.

Raising Grayce Farm of Greenville will offer a u-pick tulip event by reservation only. Blooms are estimated March 19 through April 17. The farm will also have precut flowers available at the farm stand (no reservation required). Check for updates at <http://www.raisinggraycefarm.com/>.

TC Smith Produce Farm Inc of Seven Springs will be opening for u-pick strawberries in April. The farm is also adding many local artesian items to its market. Learn more at <http://tcsmithproduce.com/>.

The Road Less Traveled Farm of Fairmont offers reservation-only farm tours and educational and fun workshops. It’s u-pick strawberries are expected to be ready in April. Watch for dates at <https://www.theroadlesstraveledfarm.com/>.

Nooherooka Natural of Snow Hill is hosting a Springfest April 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This event supports local artisans, woodworkers and other local small businesses. The farm’s beef and pork products will be available for purchase. Learn more at <https://www.nooherooka.com/>.

Hubb’s Farm of Clinton will host Easter weekend egg hunts and farm animal visits April 15-17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are sold online through the farm website and Facebook page. Also, Hubb’s Bunny S’Hop Vendor and Artisan Crafter’s Day is April 16. Educational field trips and group tours are also offered this spring. Learn more at <http://www.hubbsfarmnc.com/>.

Rebel Goat Farm Inc. of Saint Pauls is open this spring with hydroponic and aquaponic set ups. The farm will have baby animals being born this spring to visit. Check out soap- and candle- making classes on its website at <https://rebelgoatfarm.com/>.

Humphrey Farms Inc of Burgaw will host a Spring Fling Vendor Fair April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with food trucks on site. A Craftsman Showcase/Vendor Fair will be held May 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A “Bringing Fancy to the Farm” dining experience will be offered May 14. Purchase tickets in advance for this adult dining experience online at <https://humphreyfarmsnc.com/>.

Bear Ridge Farms of Maple Hill will have its u-pick strawberry fields open in April. The farm’s country store is open with fresh vegetables, meats, eggs, bread and ice cream. Farm tours offered by reservation only, available online at <https://www.bearridgefarmsinc.com/>.



## FARM EQUIPMENT

**2007 Case IH 2206** corn head, 36 in. row width, hydro deck plates, GC, always sheltered, \$12,500. Robert Cannon, Richlands 910-389-3509.

**Cole 1-horse** corn planter, \$50. Joe Frank, Lexington 336-479-4868.

**NH 650 rnd** baler, twine tie, GC, JD 1508 15 ft. batwing, \$4,500. Robert Burnette, Roxboro 336-583-8776, call or text.

**Troy-Bilt horse** tiller, recond, 8 hp elec start w/ bumper, B&S eng, new battery, tines, tines shaft, seals, wheel seals, oil, paint, \$900. Frank Hawks, Archdale 336-689-8829.

**Tobacco baler**, GC, \$2,500; AC D-10, series III, hi-lo range, GC, \$3,500. John White, Mocksville 743-999-4244.

**MF hay tedder**, 4-basket, \$2,900; 3 pt disc, (20) 20 in. disc, adjustable, \$1,800. L.G. Broadwell, Blanch 336-694-3249.

**Cane/sorghum mill** rollers, 1 set, matched pair, GC, \$1,750. F.D. Childers, High Point 336-882-3482.

**Vermeer baler**, 5x5, new belts & bearings, \$5,550; C tractor for parts, tires & wheels good, \$400. Marshall Angell, Mocksville 336-655-3993.

**Woods finish mower**, 4 ft., 3 pt, \$375; MF V-type cult, 3 pt, \$150; Athens pull-type disc, \$300. Jimmy Frye, Carthage 910-447-5910.

**Bush Hog brand** bush hog, 7 ft., 3 pt, \$1,500; Howse bog hog, 4 ft., 3 pt, \$975; Danuser post hole digger, hyd, \$1,175; other equip. Chris Witherspoon, Valdese 828-381-6857.

**Bottom plow** for Farmall 140, fast hitch, \$250. Robert Hendricks, West End 910-690-1920.

**JD 2240**, GC, always sheltered, \$10,000. Garner Jarrell, Mt. Airy 336-648-4288.

**NH 570 sq baler**, \$12,500; NH haybine, \$4,000; NH hay rake, \$1,000; hay tedder, 3 pt, 2-bed, \$600; hay spike, 3 pt, \$375. J. Lloyd Mabe, Danbury 336-703-8232.

**Planter & cult**, 1-row, \$1,200; tine tiller, VGC, \$1,200. Keith Black, Midland 704-533-5195.

**Ferguson hay rake**, 10 ft. wide, 3 pt, pto, new teeth, \$1,000. T.C. Hege, Lexington 336-247-2824.

**MF 135 gas** tractor, totally recond, no ps, \$5,000 firm. Rodney Brown, Zebulon 919-255-8846.

**Hardee rotary** cutter, model T-372-LT, 6 ft., slip clutch, 100 hp gearbox, \$500. Tom Huiet, Norwood 801-580-5571.

**'83 Cat 943** track loader, 4-in-1 bucket, undercarriage 60%, 9,700 hrs., \$20,000; Tree Bandit whole tree chipper, 200 hp Cummins eng, 2,500 hrs., \$26,000. John Yow, Chapel Hill 919-730-0242.

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**NH bale thrower** for 575 baler, GC, \$3,500; late '90s JD 328 sq baler w/applicator, VGC, \$11,500. Harden Phipps, Julian 336-601-9031.

**1972 Intl Farmall** 140 tractor, fast hitch, GC, \$4,000; 1967 Intl Farmall 140 tractor for parts, not running, \$700. Rhonda Johnson, Lemon Springs 910-324-0048.

**JD 5-bottom plow**, \$500; gear box for early JD MX8 bush hog, \$1,500; quarter turn chute for NH sq baler, \$450. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

**AC 7020 tractor**, cab, LN front tires, power shift has low/high range issue, \$3,000 obo. Robert Smyre, Newton 828-612-8167.

**Pto over running** clutch, 1 1/8 in. input shaft, standard 1 3/8 in. output shaft, \$25; draw bar for Super A-140, w/swinging draw bar, \$100. Roger Drum, Statesville 704-880-7006.

**Duetz-Allis 2.5** rnd baler, fixed chamber, 4x5 soft core baler; same model baler for salvage, \$4,200/both. Norris McConnell, Mount Ulla 704-431-9321, before 8 p.m.

**NH 315 baler**, \$3,750; NH 254 tedder/rake, needs pto shaft, \$800; Vicon 5 ft. disc mower, \$600; Agri Supply 4-wheel hay rake, 3 pt, \$300. W.D. Wood, Garner 919-302-0549.

**Maxim chain drive** tiller, M5550B, B&S eng, purchased 2017, less than 10 hrs., stored past 3 yrs., \$300. Lynda Renegar, Lenoir 828-758-5749.

**Farmall Super C**, rebuilt eng, rear tires, sheet metal & trans EC, older repaint, \$2,500. Charles Rudy, Sparta 336-200-1630.

**1964 Ford 4000** gas tractor, 5-spd, GC, \$4,500; County Line bush hog, 5 ft., LN, \$950. Denny Barney, Mocksville 336-909-5180.

**JD 6000 sprayer**, 320-gal tank, 20 ft. booms, new parts, \$16,000; Cat D8D dozer for parts, new undercarriage, no blade, \$8,500; Intl 1486, \$35,000. Larry Hudson, Mebane 919-928-6086.

**Case IH MX270**, 5,300 hrs., \$55,000; JD 3960 silage cutter, multiple heads, \$7,000; JD 7000 planter, 6-row, \$5,000; (2) Fella disc mowers, \$3,000/pr. Brian Stafford, Siler City 336-264-6864.

**JD 230 fold-up** disc, 22 ft., \$3,000; Gehl & GT silage dump wagons, \$1,000 ea; Red Dragon flame weeder, 16 ft., multiple burners, \$15,000. Joseph Johnson, Liberty 336-588-1853.

**NH 853 baler**, 5x5, \$3,500; NH 256 rake, \$2,000; NH 260 rake, \$4,500; MF 848 loader, \$2,000. Frankie Shoffner, Liberty 336-339-5961.

**7 Rainbird irrig** guns, Akron hookup, \$350 ea; 3 in. Akron pipe, 20 ft. joints, \$1.25/ft. Doug Dodson, Madison 336-871-2798.

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**Enrossi V-rake**, raked about 50 ac, \$6,000 nego. Wayne Bulins, Madison 336-552-0188.

**Oliver 60 row** crop tractor, restored, \$4,900. Noel Leatherman, Lexington 336-249-1308.

**Woods TSR44** rotary tiller, GC, \$1,250; AC C for parts or restore, motor stuck, \$500; MJD 2-12 bottom plow, \$150. G.E. Brittain, Connelly Springs 828-368-0656.

**Intl Farmall Cub**, w/cult & turning plow, \$1,850. Roy Duncan, Greensboro 336-674-5973.

**Ford 601 tractor** & grass cutter, \$3,000 firm. Billy Webb, Elm City 252-245-1853.

**1-row corn planter**, on 3 pt hitch, \$325. D.S. Knox, Huntersville 704-875-2669 or 677-2612.

**Howse bush hog**, 10 ft., \$1,200; 12 ft. field cult w/ dual roller, \$1,300; JD 335 rnd baler, 4x4, \$1,500; 7 ft. Hardee bush hog, \$1,000; other equip. Shelby McStoots, Creedmoor 919-612-1388.

**NH transplanter**, 2-row, \$600; 1-row, \$150; 4 ft. blade, \$250; 50-gal sprayer, \$100; Pittsburgh cult w/JD dist, \$750; other items. S.E. Holloman, Princeton 919-965-8271 or 464-5825.

**JD 3033R diesel**, 4wd, 12-spd trans, \$17,900; (2) cults, 3 pt, 6-shank, \$100; 6-shank w/layoff plow, \$125; Ford 101 2-12 trip beam plow, \$200. Owen Moore, High Point 336-848-0614.

**Tractors for parts** or restore, AC U & UC, \$500-\$1,800 ea; B, C, CA, \$250-\$400; (2) unstyled WC's, \$1,500. Timothy Mabe, Troy 910-572-3539.

**AC D17**, \$3,000; AC WD45 & blade, \$3,000; NI 10 spreader, \$1,000; AC plow, \$300; 3 pt dirt pan, \$200; rnd bale spear, \$200; other equip. Pete Hallyburton, Woodleaf 704-213-4537.

**MH Pacer**, not running, \$2,000; Hahn High Boy sprayer, not running, \$1,500; AC D10, series II, not running, \$3,000 obo. Robert Humbles Sr., Ayden 252-746-6576.

**NH TC33 tractor**, 33 hp, 4x4, hys trans, EC, \$10,500. DeVane Williard, Randleman 336-362-6242.

**NH 450 utility** baler, string tie only, LNC, \$22,000; Kubota DM1017 disc mower, 5 ft. 6 in. cut, LNC, \$8,000. Gary Mastin, Hamptonville 336-469-8961.

**Galloway manure** spreader, ground driven, new tires, 3x9 ft. wooden box, shelter kept, VGC, \$450. Bobby Crews, Kernersville 336-500-1457.

**Ford 2-bottom** trip plow, \$300; Ford 7-shank tillage tool, \$300. Jackie Doby, Graham 336-376-9382.

**JD 4955 MFD** tractor, low hrs., LNC; Case HP496 disc, 28 ft., GC, \$60,000/both. Lloyd Honeycutt, Dunn 910-237-4094.

**JD 459 hay baler**, silage special, \$28,500. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**JD 230 disc** harrow, \$3,000 obo; JD 4-bottom plow, \$800 obo; tractor parts for various Fords & Fergusons, \$100 & up. Robert Humbles Jr., Ayden 252-746-6838.

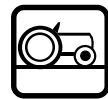
**JD 400 lawn** & garden tractor, 60 in. deck, 4 ft. rototiller, 4 ft. blade, needs work, \$1,200. Johnnie Hawks, Rich Square 252-539-2370.

**(2) IH steel wheel** drills, slab saw, tobacco stringer, shed kept, \$150-\$400. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.

**NH 848 rnd** baler, used last season, \$4,000; JD 272 grooming mower, 6 ft., GC, \$1,000. Leo Lynch, Mill Spring 864-680-4777.

**Gleaner combine**, model G, inclds grain head & 4-row corn head, 6 cyl gas eng, \$1,000 obo. Todd Brown, Ramseur 336-318-5131.

**2 Intl C** tractors for parts or restore, \$600/both; JD 4020 tractor, motor stuck, \$4,000. Jim Wehunt, Lawndale 704-692-0891.



## Equipment Wanted

**Ford 309 corn** planter plates; corn, beans, sorghum & filler plates; Ford 309 corn planters for parts. Charles Chamelin, Kernersville 336-769-4418.

**MF 255 or 265** tractor, must be in good working cond, reasonably priced, no worn-out junk pls. James Dodson, Madison 336-613-2259.

**Howse bush hog** for parts, 10 ft. Charlie Killian, Charlotte 704-807-6241.

**Safemark rear tractor** tire, 11-2-28, 50% or better. Denny Barney, Mocksville 336-909-5180.

**2 rear tractor** tires, 11-2-24 or 12-4-24, turf tread. Danny Bynum, Ellerbe 910-334-9463.

**Gleaner F2 or F3** diesel w/ soybean head; 4 or 6-row no-till planter; finger pick-up, no plate planters; JD 9400 combine w/ heads. Jefferson Smith, Asheboro 336-736-4205.

**Rockland or Rooster** roto-veyer, any cond. Harry Hart, Bolton 910-770-1160.

**2 used tires**, 16.9 x 28, GC. Pete Hallyburton, Woodleaf 704-213-4537.

**Front end loader** w/grappler, to fit a MF 383. Phil Hood, Goldsboro 919-689-9798.



## Farmland For Sale

Land for sale must consist of at least 3 acres and be used for agricultural purposes, i.e. cultivation, raising livestock and/or other farm commodities.

Advertisers must indicate use of land.

**33 ac for lease**, fenced, stream, 16 ac +/- fescue pasture, \$1,500/yr. Jill Haizlip, Siler City 336-512-9237, call or text.



## Farmland Wanted

**Land to lease** for deer season, Guilford, Rockingham, Caswell, Alamance or surrounding areas. Alan Meredith, High Point 336-442-0733, [buckstalker62@gmail.com](mailto:buckstalker62@gmail.com).

**Land to lease** for dove hunting & gundog training, Forsyth or surrounding co; will plant & maintain property. Randall Patterson, Winston-Salem 336-528-1074.

**Land to lease** for deer hunting, Davidson co preferred or must be close by. Marty Link, Lexington 336-399-3376.



## Hay &amp; Grain For Sale

**Horse quality** coastal Bermuda hay, 250 sq bales, out of storage container/barn, \$6.50 ea. Gary White, Sanford, 919-775-9769.

**Horse quality** fescue, \$5/bale; endophyte-free fescue, \$7/bale; cow hay, rnd bales, \$35 ea. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997.

**Coastal Bermuda** hay, horse quality, baled summer 2021, 4x6, clean, sheltered, net wrapped, \$50 ea. Bret Brown, Kenansville 910-271-2522.

**Cow quality hay**, 150 bales avail, p/u by appt only, some deliv avail, \$25 ea. Cynthia Blackmore, Warsaw 910-249-2008.

**2021 fescue/orchard** grass, sq bales, stored in barn, no rain or weeds, \$5/bale. Marty DeMers, Sophia 336-509-0241.

**Peanut hay**, rnd bales, 4x5, net wrapped, can deliv 38 bales/load, \$40/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.

**Oats/fescue mix**, 4x5, stored inside, \$35/bale. Frankie Shoffner, Liberty 336-339-5961.

**Horse quality hay**, deliv avail, \$40/rl. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

**Mixed orchard** grass, 2021 cut, 4x4 rnd, \$30/bale. Noel McCraw, Hendersonville 828-808-5803.



## Horses &amp; Supplies For Sale

**PLEASE NOTE: All equine 6 mos. or older must have a current negative Coggins test. Advertisers must supply the accession number of test, the name of lab doing the test, the date of test and results for each equine advertised.**

**Small donkeys**, 1 jack & 1 female; female will foal late spring, \$350. Ray Herndon, Kings Mountain 704-739-5914.



## HORSES

**Horse boarding**, 8 ac pasture, barn, well water, exercise area, \$115/mo; 2 or more, \$95 ea/mo. Doug Holyfield, Dobson 336-407-8653.



### Horses & Supplies Wanted

**Female donkey**, middle-aged, good-natured; to be companion to good-natured, middle-aged male donkey. Judith Ortiz, Chapel Hill 919-819-4021.



### Livestock For Sale

**Alpine & Nubian** mixed dairy goats, full size, bucklings, weathers, doelings; disbudded, vaccs, cae free, weaned or bottle fed, 150 avail, \$60-\$200 ea. Dani Copeland, Cedar Grove 702-809-9077.

**Hereford/Jersey** mix heifers, dob 4/24/21, \$700; dob 4/29/20, \$900.00. Bill Barkley, Salisbury 704-633-5040.

**Nigerian dwarf** goats, 2 adult does & 1 adult buck, \$125 ea; 2 doe kids, \$100 ea; willing to sell as a whole or in prs. Kerwinn Williams, Linden 314-956-7462.

**Reg Angus bulls**, 18 m/o, \$2,500 ea; bred Blk Angus heifers & cows, \$1,600 ea. Brad Storie, Hamptonville 336-469-1790.

**Reg Angus bull**, 14 m/o, sire MVF WIX Performer 40; dam Hillside-Rose-of-Lily, \$1,500. Ken Dobbins, Reidsville 336-324-6615, call or text.

**Nigerian dwarf** goats, spring kids, some adult females, adga reg; blue eyes, polled & moonspots possible, great bloodlines, \$150-\$400. Tracy Hardin, Forest City 828-248-2125.

**Blk SimAngus & Simmental** bulls, polled, bred for calving ease, muscle & growth, \$2,000-\$2,500. William Pyle, Franklinton 919 215-5677.

**Reg Santa Gertrudis**, calves, \$650 & up; bulls, \$1,000 & up; cow/calf pairs, \$2,500 & up. Charles O'Bryant III, Reidsville 336-908-0276.

**Charolais bulls & heifers**, 7 mos & up, polled, reg sires, \$850 & up; Charolais/Angus x bulls & heifers, 7 mos & up, polled, \$825 & up. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-213-0857.

**Miniature Lamancha** dairy goats, mgda reg, \$150 & up. Jared Yates, Hickory 828-270-9849.

**Reg Angus bulls**, 17 m/o, sired by Cowboy Up & Bruiser, \$2,500 ea. Kim Starnes, Salisbury 704-640-5875.

**Bred commercial** cows, appx 30 avail, high quality, due to calve Nov to reg Angus bulls, under 5 y/o, \$1,800; 5-7 y/o, \$1,500. John Barnes, Reidsville 252-230-0650.

**Reg male alpaca**, 11 m/o, white, outstanding bloodline, \$1,000. Pat Waters, Concord 704-786-9257.

## LIVESTOCK

**Texas Longhorn** heifers, yearling & 2 y/o, blk, brown, white, \$400 & up; crossbred steers & heifers for breakaway or cutting, \$275; other avail. Charlie Bolton, Pittsboro 919-548- 2518.

**Kiko/Savanna** crosses, kidded 2/22, established, quality bloodlines, healthy, hardy, easy keepers, avail mid-May, \$125-\$150 ea. David Ward, Burlington 336-266-1457.

**Reg Blk Angus** bulls, (3) long yearlings, 16 m/o, gentle, easy calving, bloodlines Baldridge Waylon KCF Bennett, bse tested, \$2,500-\$3,500. Laureen Rumley, Burlington 336-675-1712.

### Highly pathnogenic avian influenza alert

In January 2022, HPAI was found in the wildfowl population in the eastern United States including North Carolina wintering in the Carolinas. This disease represents a significant risk for all poultry owners. No cases have been found in domesticated birds in North Carolina. Poultry owners are strongly recommended to watch their birds for any signs of illness and to contact a veterinarian if they find sick or dead birds. Growers can also contact one of four NCDA&CS regional veterinary diagnostic labs for more information. Go to [www.ncagr.gov/vet/ncvdl/VetLabFacilitiesDirectory.html](http://www.ncagr.gov/vet/ncvdl/VetLabFacilitiesDirectory.html) for contact information. This disease can spread by infected wildfowl; therefore it is important to eliminate opportunities for your birds to come in contact with wild birds. Please keep your birds indoors at this time. Owners are also urged to be extra mindful of biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of this disease. This includes quarantining any new bird additions to your existing flock for at least two weeks to observe for signs of sickness, have a dedicated pair of shoes and clothing for working with birds that stay on your property, and avoid or be careful when visiting other poultry as the disease can spread not only by you and your clothing, but by vehicles as well. More information can be found at [www.ncagr.gov/avianflu](http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu).



### Poultry & Supplies For Sale

**6,000 started** pullets, vaccs, debeaked, \$8 & up. E.D. Snider, Staley 336-708-2998.

**(2) electric fan** units, 48 in., \$50 ea. Lee Goodnight, China Grove 704-433-8216.

**California**, silver California, blue scale, Gambel; 8 breeds bobwhite; partridge, Philby, chukar, Hungarian, \$3 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-888-0213.

## POULTRY &amp; SUPPLIES

**Golden comet** pullets, 20 w/o, lrg order discount, \$12 ea. Kevin Crumpler, Snow Hill 252-717-8411.

**'21 bantams**, silver duckwing & Old English, 1 male & 2 females, \$30/trio. Wade Shelton, Mt. Airy 336-374-2254.

**Chickens**, blk, blue, lavender, white Ameraucana; lay blue eggs late into Nov-Dec, \$20 ea. Roger Melville, Charlotte 980-355-5907.

**Used chicken house** feed bins, heaters, drinkers & fans, \$2,000. Ann Wilkie, Goldston 919-353-0080.

**Australian blk** swans & mute swans, \$600 & up; Cape Barren geese, \$600 & up. Jim Simpson, Indian Trail 704-361-6497.

**Marbled teal** ducks, male & female, \$100/pr. Martin Dover, Shelby 704-482-0178.

**2022 blk shoulder & India** blue peacock chicks, \$30 & up; (3) 1 y/o peacocks, \$100 & up. Richard Simmons, Chadbourn 910-640-7114.

**Birmingham roller** pigeons, performance bred, great spinners, \$20 & up. D.R. Dennis, Randleman 336-318-9285, after 6 p.m.

**Ayam Cemani** chicks, straight run, \$25 ea; mature breeding stock avail. Joe Snow, Thurmond 336-648-5997.

**Southern States** turkey feed, 4-5 tons, 16% medicated w/safeguard wormer, made & deliv to grain bin 2/18, for chickens, turkeys, other; deliv avail, \$5-\$10/load. Dave Welch, Spring Hope 919-369-3580.



### Poultry & Supplies Wanted

**Poultry house** feed lines & nipple drinkers. Dave Welch, Spring Hope 919-369-3580.

**OE silver duckwings**, 2 young hens or a male & 2 females ok, \$20. Robert Burns, Holly Springs 919-552-6420.



### Seeds & Plants For Sale

**PLEASE NOTE:** Individuals or businesses offering nursery stock for sale in North Carolina are required to obtain either a nursery or nursery dealer license. For more information, contact the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division at 800-206-9333 or 919-707-3730.

**Blueberry plants**, early, mid & late season, many varieties, discounts for lrg orders, \$3.50-\$15. Michael Crippen, Garland 910-529-1469.

**Sunflower seeds**, huge 12-14 lb. flower, 15-18 in. diameter, SASE & \$3/25 seeds; \$5/50 seeds. N. Smoot, 6227 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370.

**Cockscomb** seeds, huge blossom head, crimson color, 18 in. stalk, about 200 seeds, SASE & \$3 cash. Barry Cox, 6225 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370.

## SEEDS &amp; PLANTS

**Tuberose bulbs**, lrg order discount for mixed sizes, \$1-\$2. Cathy Reynolds, Salisbury 980-234-2515.

**Muscadine vines**, several varieties, healthy, potted, 3-4 ft. tall, trimming & planting instr incld, \$15. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, no texts.

**Old timey little** white cucumber seeds, SASE & \$1/tsp cash. Jim Bostian, 6235 River Bend Rd, Claremont, NC 28610, 828-459-9276.

**Blueberry rabbiteye** plants, 2 y/o, potted, Premier, Tifblue, Climax, Powderblue, \$10 ea. Michael Roberson, Trinity 336-862-3488.

**Natchez crepe** myrtles, 5-6 ft. tall, \$19.95 ea. Greg Bruhn, Raleigh 919-790-0480.



### Seeds & Plants Wanted

**Cushaw seeds**, dark bluish-gray, grown in High Point area in '70s. Bland Fulbright, Hildebran 828-397-3811.



### Farm Labor For Sale

**Electric fence** repair, afw, tsc, ssc, zareba, parmak, \$20/hr. Bobby Nichols, N. Wilkesboro 336-927-2850.

**Vert & horz** mowing, ponds, dams, shooting lanes, fence lines; food plot setting & plowing, \$75/hr. + deliv of equip. Roger McKenzie, Jackson Springs 910-528-2293.



### Farm Labor Wanted

**Someone to plant** cedar trees around property line, appx 5200 ft. around; will need to supply trees or seedlings. Rick Barnhardt, Salisbury 910-520-1336.



### Supplies For Sale

**Wayne 40669** lawn sprinkling pump, w/GE 2 hp 230v 1 phase motor, \$150. Duane Kirschenman, Winston-Salem 336-765-0968.

**Greenhouse**, 30x48 commercial type, propane heater incld; buyer must dismantle & move to new location, \$6,000. Beth Phillippe, Norwood 704-474-9165.

**JD 60 KY** diesel generator, w/elec transfer boxes; 500-gal tank w/150-gal fuel, \$11,000. Roger Cox, Staley 336-622-6889.

**Gourds**, \$1.25 ea & up. Denny Rollins, Mocksville 336-492-7223.

**Used canning jars**, quart size, no lids, 100 doz avail, \$5/doz. Jerry Houston, Providence 336-459-0934.

**2 toolboxes**, 44x32x21, 3/16 in. thick steel, on locking casters or truck mount, \$225 ea. Joe Frank, Lexington 336-479-4868.

## FARM SUPPLIES

**Fiberglass tank**, 8,000 gal, \$2,500; elec lift table, 4 ft., \$1,000; glass door cooler, 3 sliding doors, 7x6x2.5, \$1,000. Miles Little, Midland 704-791-1438.

**Steel tank**, 6,000 gal, \$600; plastic tank, 1,550 gal, \$500. John White, Mocksville 743-999-4244.

**Central boiler wood** burner outdoor stove, VGC, heats 3,500 sq ft., in use, \$3,500. Jimmy Womble, Chapel Hill 919-812-0832.

**Greenhouse**, 30x72, needs to be taken down, \$1,000. Doug Dodson, Madison 336-871-2798.

**Feed barrels**, \$20 ea; 275-gal totes, 2 in. valve, \$75 ea; burning barrels, \$10 ea; solid top barrels, \$10 ea. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

**Old home & farmstead** items, tomato stakes, tobacco sticks, \$1-\$5,000. N. Lee, Advance 336-998-8922, nights.



### Supplies Wanted

**Roofing tin**, 5-beaded, 12 ft. long, 26-30 sheets. Danny Homer, Mebane 919-563-5658.



### Trucks & Trailers For Sale

**Stoll cattle trailer**, 16 ft., bumper pull, VGC, \$4,500. Ray Herndon, Kings Mountain 704-739-5914.

**'98 Toyota Tacoma**, ext cab, 4wd, \$3,500. Robert Burnette, Roxboro 336-583-8776, call or text.

**1951 Ford F6** dump truck, flatbed, flathead V-8 eng stuck, \$2,950. Rodney Tomberlin, Oakboro 704-322-2017.

**4 Model A** radiator grills, 1930-31 model, \$120 ea. Paul Newby, Sophia 336-689-2994.

**Alum toolbox** for sm p/u truck, diamond-plated, \$85. Roger Cox, Staley 336-622-6889.

**Hay or flatbed** trailers, dual axle, 6 & 8 ft. wide, 14-18 in. long, \$700-\$1,400; single axle, 6 ft. wide, 8 ft. long, \$500 & \$700. W.D. Wood, Garner 919-302-0549.

**'70s Intl & Ford** dump trucks, \$2,000 ea; Chevy 427 tandem cab/chassis, \$1,000; (2) Miller dump bodies, 14 ft., \$1,000 ea; other items. Joseph Johnson, Liberty 336-588-1853.

**2022 Calico** stock trailer, 16 ft., gooseneck, \$8,860. Y.D. Saul, Elon 336-213-6292.

**Equip trailer**, tandem wheels, 6x16, factory built, \$1,800. Grady McClamrock, Mocksville 336-751-2532.

**Dodge M31** military truck, 1-ton, not running, new drive shafts & axle, \$3,000 obo; Studebaker 1 1/2-ton big truck parts, \$100 & up. Robert Humbles Sr., Ayden 252-746-6576.



# Snow Hill farmer carries on small farm tradition

At 79 years old with a lifetime of farming experience to his name, James Shackelford of Snow Hill well understands the challenges of being a small farmer and making a living from the land. This year, he’s watching his input costs even more closely as he makes plans to put another crop in the ground.

“It’s a challenge now farming. Every year it gets more challenging. With fuel, fertilizer (costs going up), I don’t know how long it will be worth it for me this year,” Shackelford said. “Fertilizer is up \$5 a bag from what I bought in the fall. You are going to have to increase your costs to cover your costs.”

For a time, Shackelford grew tobacco on his 50-acre farm like his daddy before him, but as tobacco farms grew in size, he decided to transition into vegetables, corn and soybeans.

Today, he primarily focuses on vegetables and he has found a pretty loyal customer base that likes what he is growing, including collards, old varieties of sweet potatoes, old-fashioned “henpecked” mustard greens and watermelons.

“I’m known for my collards and the way we handle our stuff – it’s clean,” he said, adding that “word of mouth” helps move his products. People stop by the farm for fresh picked collards, greens, squash, okra, watermelons or whatever is in season. He sells some to a couple of local restaurants, but direct-to-consumer sales are his bread and butter.

“As a small farmer, I can’t make it selling wholesale,” Shackelford said. “I do some wholesale, but not a lot – it’s not good for a small farmer.”

Shackelford has worked with members of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Small Farm Division to access cost-share programs that have helped add on-farm irrigation and a high tunnel that allows him to get seedlings into the field a few weeks earlier than normal.

Those additions can help improve the bottom line for small farmers like Shackelford, said Jacob Crandall, a program specialist with the Small Farms Division and a retired specialist with USDA. That’s part of the mission of Crandall’s division, helping small farmers survive and maximize their efforts.

Shackelford admits his wife Geraldine is probably ready for them to retire, but he still loves farming and watching the plants grow from seed.

As Shackelford describes the farming process, he blends philosophy and faith, ending up with a powerful observation about life.

“I work with nature and what God has provided. You plant stuff and see stuff grow and you learn things along with way. If you don’t plant and work, you won’t get anything. If I don’t take action to put something in the ground, I won’t have anything. If you don’t tend to it, then you won’t have anything either,” he said, explaining that you have to work at growth and progress.

For 20 years Shackelford has served as a Greene County Commissioner, crediting leadership skills he learned in 4-H with helping him in this role. He said people don’t realize how important local government is, but that it touches everything you are involved in.

He wishes more kids, and minority kids in particular, would get involved with 4-H. “When I was young, one of the big impacts on my life was 4-H. Now there’s not many Black kids in 4-H. You learn a lot of skills and leadership at a young age. I wish more would get involved,” he said.

Shackelford said he sometimes misses tobacco. “I like to watch tobacco grow. It’s a pretty plant. I kinda



James Shackelford, 79, grows collards, heirloom sweet potatoes, greens, watermelons, squash and okra, starting plants early in his high tunnel.



miss that. It was a challenge to me to see a crop that started so small, then get that big.”

Collards have been a comparable replacement. “They tend to remind me of tobacco, especially when you get a pretty crop. And, you plant them pretty much like you do tobacco,” he said. “But collards are more challenging because insects love them better than anything else.”

Shackelford is grateful for the help of the Small Farms Division and hopes his son and daughter will carry on the farming tradition.

“I’m hoping they can start where I am leaving off,” he said.

If small or minority farmers are interested in working with the Small Farms Division, contact Archie Hart at [archie.hart@ncagr.gov](mailto:archie.hart@ncagr.gov)



# Pesticide settlement agreements announced

The N.C. Pesticide Board approved the following settlement agreements for cases in Cabarrus, Currituck, Iredell, Lenoir, Pasquotank, Pitt and Union counties. Settlements involved cases of pesticide drift and improper selling and application of pesticides. Settlements are listed below:

(Cabarrus) Stephen N. Ruark, a licensed aerial pesticide applicator with Thunder Valley Ag Aviation in Pantego agreed to pay \$2,100

for depositing pesticides by aircraft on the right-of-way of a public road near Midland.

(Currituck) Joseph D. Etheridge, a licensed private pesticide applicator in Shawboro, agreed to pay \$500 for using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. The label for the product used states that the pesticide should only be applied if the wind direction favors on-target deposition. Etheridge’s application on a field contacted a car

on the road nearby.

(Iredell) Christopher T. Heslin, a licensed pesticide dealer for SiteOne Landscape Supply in Mooresville, agreed to pay \$1,200 for several improper sales of a restricted-use pesticide to someone with a fraudulent license.

(Lenoir) Joshua Pridgen, a licensed pesticide dealer for Helena Agri Enterprise in Kinston agreed to pay \$400 for improperly selling a pesticide that is only labeled for agricultural

use sites to a commercial pesticide applicator who was not certified to use the particular pesticide.

(Pasquotank) Matthew C. Crabbe, a licensed aerial pesticide applicator contractor for Crabbe Aviation in Mechanicsville, Va., agreed to pay \$1,000 because pesticides he applied to a soybean field near Elizabeth City drifted onto a nearby apiary. The drift indicated a manner of use inconsistent with the pesticides’ labeling and

therefore a violation of state law.

(Granville) Mark W. Lyon, a licensed private pesticide applicator in Creedmoor, agreed to pay \$600 for applying a soil fumigant to his fields without the proper licensing category on his license.

(Union) Campbell F. Cox, a licensed private pesticide applicator in Monroe agreed to pay \$600 for applying a paraquat herbicide without the required training.